

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12
EA-10 AGRE-00 /151 W
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R 241718Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8021
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BRUSSELS 14363

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, EEC, AD
SUBJ: FURTHER READ OUT ON EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON'S
JULY 6-7 VISIT TO LUANDA

REF: BRUSSELS 13560

1. SUMMARY: JULY 20, AMBASSADOR CALLED ON EC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON TO DISCUSS THE LATTER'S RECENT TRIP
TO ANGOLA. CHARACTERIZING HIS MEETINGS WITH NETO AND
THE VICE PREMIER IN CHARGE OF PLANNING AS SUCCESSFUL,
CHEYSSON SAID HIS DISCUSSIONS IN ANGOLA FOCUSSED MAINLY
ON THE COUNTRY'S INTERNAL ECONOMIC SITUATION AND NETO'S
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ATTITUDE TOWARD ZAIRE AND NAMIBIA. CHEYSSON DESCRIBED
NETO AS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING CLOSER TIES WITH THE EC
BUT HE DID NOT EXPECT MUCH TO HAPPEN IN THE SHORT RUN
EXCEPT FOR THE POSSIBLE NAMING AT SOME LATER DATE OF AN
ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EC, AND THE SENDING OF AN
ANGOLAN ECONOMIC EXPERT TO BRUSSELS TO MAINTAIN CONTACT
WITH THE COMMISSION. CHEYSSON ALSO COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON

THE SITUATION IN CHAD AND MAURITANIA AND NOTED THAT HE HAD ATTENDED THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM. END SUMMARY.

2. DESCRIBING HIS VISIT TO ANGOLA AS FRUITFUL, CHEYSSON PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY OBSERVING THAT HIS TRIP HAD BEEN MADE AT INSTIGATION OF NETO, WHO URGED HIM TO COME TO ANGOLA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DURING HIS STAY, WHICH WAS WIDELY COVERED BY THE LOCAL PRESS, CHEYSSON SAID HE HAD MET PRINCIPALLY WITH NETO AND THE VICE PREMIER IN CHARGE OF PLANNING, AND THAT THE DISCUSSIONS COVERED FOUR MAIN AREAS: (A) ANGOLA'S LACK OF A MENIAL LABOR FORCE; (B) ANGOLA'S FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES; (C) NAMIBIA; AND (D) ZAIRE. THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSIONS, HE SAID, NETO DISPLAYED KEEN INTEREST IN HAVING CLOSER TIES WITH THE EC, WHICH CHEYSSON SAW AS EITHER AN ATTEMPT TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE SOVIETS AND THE CUBANS, OR SIMPLY AS AN EFFORT TO FIND AN ADDITIONAL CHANNEL FOR MORE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA. CHEYSSON CONSIDERS NETO TO BE AN INTELLECTUAL IN THE SENGHOR MOLD AND WAS IMPRESSED BY THE GENERAL ANGOLAN ATTITUDE--SIMILAR TO THE NIGERIAN--REGARDING THE SUPERIORITY OF THEIR COUNTRY. HE PORTRAYED THE VICE PREMIER IN CHARGE OF PLANNING AS COLD AND STONY-FACED, AND LESS RECEPTIVE THAN NETO TO CLOSE EC/ANGOLAN TIES.

3. TURNING TO THE SPECIFIC TOPICS COVERED DURING HIS
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DISCUSSIONS, CHEYSSON MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A) LABOR FORCE: NETO DESCRIBED ANGOLA AS BEING ALMOST COMPLETELY DEVOID OF A WORKING CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE AS A RESULT OF THE DEPARTURE OF THE POORER PORTUGUESE WHO HAD HAD EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OVER MENIAL JOBS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. HAVING RECEIVED NO TRAINING IN THESE JOBS, THE LOWER CLASS AFRICAN POPULATION IS UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BASIC FUNCTIONING OF THE ECONOMY, WHICH NETO CHARACTERIZED AS BEING IN SHAMBLES. DESPITE EFFORTS TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION WITH THE HELP OF THE CUBANS AND THROUGH THE RECENT SIGNING OF A TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL, NETO SAID THERE IS ROOM FOR MORE ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER OUTSIDE SOURCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING. CHEYSSON REPORTEDLY TOLD NETO THAT, IF REQUESTED, THE COMMUNITY COULD SUPPLY VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND OTHER TYPES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP BUILD UP A WORKING-CLASS CADRE IN ANGOLA.

B) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: DESCRIBING ANGOLA'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AS EXTREMELY WEAK, NETO REPORTEDLY TOLD CHEYSSON HE WAS OPEN TO ANY SUGGESTION AIMED AT EFFECTING

AN IMPROVEMENT. NETO ASKED WHETHER THE EC COULD PLAY A
ROLE IN STIMULATING EC MEMBER STATE PRIVATE INVESTMENT
AND BANK LOANS IN ANGOLA. CHEYSSON SAID THAT SOME EC
ASSISTANCE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ONCE ANGOLA JOINED
THE LOME CONVENTION. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT MAJOR
CHANGES WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN ANGOLA'S POLICIES BEFORE
PRIVATE WEST EUROPEAN INVESTORS WOULD RESPOND TO ANGOLA'S
NEEDS. NETO ALLEGEDLY PRAISED GULF OIL AND EUROPEAN OIL
OPERATIONS FOR THE WORK THEY ARE DOING AND THEIR COOPERA-
TION WITH HIS GOVERNMENT IN HELPING ANGOLA MEET ITS
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

C) EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES AND ZAIRE: NETO DENIED ANY

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USEEC

ANGOLAN OR CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SHABA II INVASION
AND NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE THE MILITARY
CAPABILITY TO CONTROL THE EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES, WHOM HE
DESCRIBED AS THE BEST MILITARY FORCE IN THE REGION. MORE-
OVER, HE SAID, THE GENDARMES' STRENGTH HAS BEEN CONSIDER-
ABLY INCREASED WITH THEIR CAPTURE OF A LARGE ARRAY OF FAZ

WEAPONS AND THE IMPORTATION OF NEW RECRUITS FROM THE FAZ AND THE LUNDA TRIBE WHO RETURNED TO ANGOLA WITH THE GENDARMES AFTER THE INVASION. ALTHOUGH THE NEW RECRUITS ARE NOT CONSIDERED AT PRESENT TO BE A SERIOUS THREAT, NETO SAID THAT, AFTER SIX MONTHS TRAINING, THEY WILL MAKE THE KATANGAN GENDARMES AN EVEN STRONGER MILITARY FORCE. (COMMENT: NETO'S STATEMENT TO CHEYSSON THAT HE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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UNABLE TO CONTROL THE EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES APPEARS TO CONFLICT WITH OTHER REPORTS REGARDING HIS PLANS FOR THEIR RESETTLEMENT AWAY FROM THE ZAIRE BORDER.)

REFERRING TO ZAIRE, NETO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER NON-AFRICAN STATES SEEKING TO MAINTAIN A "VACUUM" IN THAT COUNTRY, THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO CONTINUED INSTABILITY IN THE REGION. HE SAID HE IS INTERESTED IN SEEING A STABLE GOVERNMENT IN ZAIRE WITH WHICH HE CAN HAVE GOOD RELATIONS AND HE IS AGAINST OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE OF ANY SORT. CHEYSSON SPECULATED THAT NETO IS PARTICULARLY WARY OF CHINESE OBJECTIVES IN ZAIRE.

4. CHEYSSON SAID THAT NETO AND HIS COLLEAGUES EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE LOME CONVENTION AND THE TYPES OF EC ASSISTANCE THAT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ANGOLA. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WHETHER THERE ARE ANY STRINGS TO EC ASSISTANCE. CHEYSSON SAID HE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL EC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND NOTED THAT THE ANGOLANS WERE REASSURED WHEN HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EC PROVIDES AID TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT SHARE WESTERN IDEOLOGY. CHEYSSON NOTED THAT THE EC WILL SOON BE PROVIDING DIRECT FOOD AID TO ANGOLA RATHER THAN THROUGH UN AGENCIES. HE DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE ANY RAPID MOVES BY ANGOLA TO STRENGTHEN ITS TIES WITH THE EC, NOTING HE DID NOT EXPECT ANGOLA TO IMMEDIATELY JOIN THE LOME CONVENTION, ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD ANGOLA MIGHT SEND AN OBSERVER DELEGATION TO THE FORTHCOMING RENEGOTIATION OF THE CONVENTION. CHEYSSON FURTHER ANTICIPATED THAT ANGOLA WILL AT SOME FUTURE DATE ACCREDIT TO THE EC ITS AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND ALSO INCLUDE AN ECONOMIC CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPERT IN THE EMBASSY TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE COMMISSION-

5. MAURITANIA -- CHEYSSON REGRETTED THE OVERTHROW OF OULD DADDAH WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS WIDELY RESPECTED IN AFRICA, WITH GOOD LINKS TO THE ARAB WORLD. HIS DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE SCENE WILL NOT BENEFIT MAURITANIA, CHEYSSON BELIEVED, SINCE HE HAS DOUBTS THAT THE YOUNG OFFICERS WHO HAVE TAKEN OVER WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE STABILITY. CHEYSSON FURTHER NOTED THAT ARAB, PARTICULARLY SAUDI, FINANCIAL SUPPORT BEING PROVIDED TO MAURITANIA COULD, WITH OULD DADDAH'S REMOVAL, DWINDLE TO THE POINT OF BECOMING NON-EXISTENT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SAUDI FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MOROCCO IS ALSO BEING REDUCED. NOTING THERE IS A GENERAL DISINCLINATION TO HELP THE NEW MAURITANIAN RULERS, CHEYSSON ANTICIPATED THERE WOULD BE INFORMAL CONTACTS AT THE OAU SUMMIT BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES, MOROCCO AND ALGERIA IN PARTICULAR, WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN A RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE INTERESTS OF MAURITANIA. CHEYSSON ALSO SAW A POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN SETTLEMENT OF THE SAHARA PROBLEM AND A PARALLEL WITHDRAWAL OF MOROCCAN TROOPS FROM ZAIRE.

6. CHAD -- CHEYSSON SAID THAT DURING HIS TALKS WITH NIMERY OF SUDAN TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE OAU SUMMIT, THE LATTER REVEALED THAT THE SUDAN WAS BECOMING MORE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS SUPPORT FOR THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT. NIMERY REPORTEDLY TOLD CHEYSSON THAT CHADIAN PRESIDENT MALLOUM WAS ALSO LOSING SUPPORTERS ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA.

7. OAU-- CHEYSSON DID NOT MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS ON THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING IN KHARTOUM EXCEPT TO SAY THAT HE HAD ATTENDED THE OPENING CEREMONIES AT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PERSONAL REQUEST OF NIMERY, WHO FELT THAT AN EC PRESENCE WAS ESSENTIAL TO SHOW THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND AFRICA. HE NOTED HOWEVER, THAT DURING HIS TALKS, BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS, PARTICULARLY OBASANJO OF NIGERIA, REVEALED AN UNDERLYING UNEASE

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OVER THE INCREASING ARAB INFLUENCE IN SUBSAHARA
AFRICA. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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